

II. REMARKS

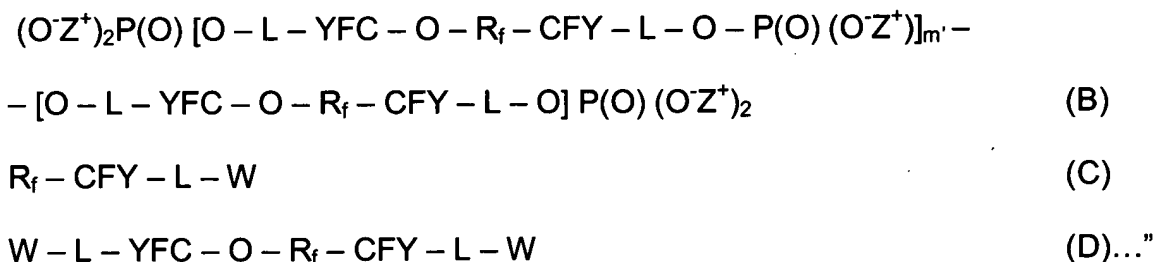
The Office Action dated August 23, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-4, 6-7, 11, 18 and 19 are no longer withdrawn from consideration. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-9 and 11-20 are allowed.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claim 10 is rejected.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Visca et al. (EP 1 006 168). Applicants traverse this rejection.

Present claim 10 is directed to a "method of conferring anti-corrosive properties to metal substrata and their alloys comprising applying a (per)fluoropolyether having a formula selected from:



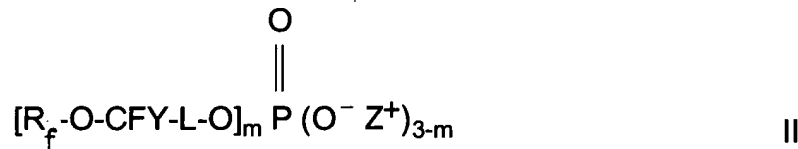
(emphasis added).

In contrast, Visca et al. is directed to "a method for treating surfaces which is specific for certain types of surfaces, particularly paper, 'cotto,' wood and fabrics" (Visca et al., paragraph [0008]). Further, Visca et al. is directed to surface treatment that is used, in particular, "to provide oil- and/or water-repellency" (Visca et al., paragraph [0001]). Although Visca et al. discloses the use of "compounds to impart oil- and water-

repellency to cellulose materials, metallic materials, glass-like materials, cement, marble and the like...,” the only compounds disclosed as having this ability are the following:



and



(Visca et al., paragraph [0005] – [0007]).

Applicants submit that compounds of formula (I) and (II) of Visca et al. are not compounds of formula (B), (C) and (D) of present claim 10.

Further, although Visca et al. discloses a compound of formula (III), it does not teach or suggest that the compound can be used to confer “anti-corrosive properties to metal substrata” (present claim 10) (emphasis added). Rather, Applicants submit that Visca et al. merely discloses a method of conferring a different type of property to a different type of surface. Specifically, Visca et al. only discloses the use of the compound in a “method of treating surfaces which is specific for certain types of surfaces, particularly paper, ‘cotto,’ wood and fabrics” (Visca et al., paragraph [0008]) (emphasis added). Further, Visca et al. discloses that the surface treatment provides “oil- and/or water-repellency” (Visca et al., paragraph [0001]). Applicants submit that Visca et al. does not teach or suggest that compounds of formula (B), (C), and (D) of present claim 10 can be used on metal substrata, let alone confer anti-corrosive properties to the metal substrata.

Applicants submit that Example 3 of Visca et al. merely discloses that solutions containing a compound of formula (IV) were “brushed onto surfaces of medium-porosity

'cotto toscano'" (Visca et al., paragraph [0043] to [0044]). In other words, Example 3 of Visca et al. does not teach or suggest a "method of conferring anticorrosive properties to metal substrata" (present claim 10).

As Visca et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the presently claimed invention, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Visca et al..

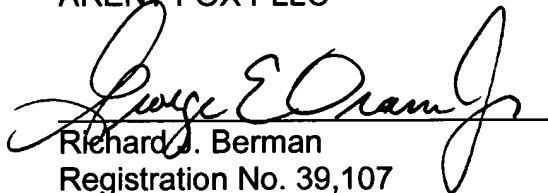
III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event this response is not timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 108910-00051.

Respectfully submitted,

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